



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
Public Health

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January 4, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: *for* Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

for Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON CULTURAL FOOD PREPARATION LAWS**

On October 18, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich directing the Director of Public Health to convene meetings with restaurant groups representing various Asian cuisines and report back in 30 days. This is to provide an update on our progress since our status report on December 2, 2005.

Determine additional training needs on the recent State law changes concerning food temperature

Status – The Environmental Health, Consultation & Technical Services (CTS) unit received comments on the draft needs assessment survey instrument from the various community based organizations and professional associations representing the Chinese and Korean restaurant communities. The survey instrument has been translated into both Chinese and Korean. Organizations/associations representing the Chinese and Korean restaurant communities have assisted in distributing translated survey instruments to their respective members. Organizations/associations representing the Japanese restaurant community have requested additional time to gather comments on the survey instrument. A Japanese version will be completed when we receive comments from the Japanese organizations/associations and then will be distributed.

CTS has been unable to contact organizations/associations that specifically serve the Filipino, Thai, and Vietnamese restaurant communities; however, CTS has contacted the Environmental Health Division of Orange County, and we hope that Vietnamese organizations/associations that

serve Orange County will have a similar presence in Los Angeles County. We will continue our efforts to reach to Thai and Filipino groups.

Additional studies on the safety of traditional cultural food preparation techniques

Status – Part of the purpose of the needs assessment is to provide feedback on issues with traditional cultural food preparation techniques. CTS received initial batches of completed surveys from both the Chinese and Korean restaurant communities. Bilingual Environmental Health staff have begun translating the responses into English in order to compile survey results. Food preparation methods and food items which possibly conflict with established food safety practices or are subject to enforcement actions for non-compliance with State health codes will be evaluated to determine the potential for food-borne illness.

We will provide another status report in 30 days. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let either of us know.

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c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors